

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3718

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2805

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, NL

SUBJ: ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN'S MEETING JUNE 5

WITH FONMIN VAN DER STOEL: PORTUGAL

SUMMARY: VAN DER STOEL GAVE ASST SECRETARY HARTMAN HIS IMPRESSIONS FROM HIS JUNE 3 VISIT TO LISBON, NOTABLY THAT THE SITUATION WAS DIFFICULT AND DELICATE BUT THE PRESENT SITUATION WAS "BEST HOPE"WE HAVE. VAN DER STOEL SPOKE FAVORABLY OF SOARES AS MODERATE, ANTI-COMMUNIST AND FIRM BELIEVER IN PORTUGAL'S REMAINING IN NATO. VAN DER STOEL EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR SOARES' FORMULA OF SOME FORM OF PORTUGUESE RECOGNITION OF GUINEA-BISSAU'S INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL POPULATION. NEGOTIATIONS WITH PAIGC REPRE-
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SENTATIVES IN LONDON WERE AT CRUCIAL POINT AND ATTITUDE

OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS, ESPECIALLY US, WOULD BE VERY INFLUENTIAL. END SUMMARY.

1. TOUCHING ON HIS JUNE 3 VISIT TO LISBON, VAN DER STOEL SAID HE GOT THE IMPRESSION OF A DIFFICULT AND DELICATE SITUATION INCLUDING A WELL-ORGANIZED COMMUNIST PARTY. FIRST PRIORITY FOR THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT, IN VAN DER STOEL'S OPINION, SHOULD BE DE-COLONIZATION. THE PRESENT SET-UP IN PORTUGAL IS "THE BEST HOPE WE HAVE". HOWEVER THERE WAS THE POTENTIAL FOR A TURN TO EITHER THE EXTREME RIGHT OR EXTREME LEFT. BOTH WOULD BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. GENERAL SPINOLA IS A POWER IN HIS OWN RIGHT, BUT SUBJECT TO INFLUENCE BY THE OFFICERS BEHIND HIM, THUS VAN DER STOEL DID NOT FEEL THAT SPINOLA'S WORD WAS LAW.

2. TURNING TO GOP'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH PAIGC'S REPRESENTATIVES IN LONDON, VAN DER STOEL SAID THEY HAD REACHED CRUCIAL POINT. SUCCESS IN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HELP PORTUGAL CONSIDERABLY WITH ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA REPRESENTATIVES. CONVERSELY, FAILURE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH PAIGC WOULD DARKEN THE OUTLOOK FOR OTHER NEGOTIATIONS. VAN DER STOEL REITERATED HIS PRESCRIPTION WAS FOR PORTUGAL TO GET RID OF ITS COLONIAL PROBLEM SO IT COULD CONCENTRATE ON ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

3. SOARES-A VERY MODERATE MAN, ACCORDING TO VAN DER STOEL, ANTI-COMMUNIST, AND A FIRM BELIEVER IN PORTUGAL'S REMAINING IN NATO-IS NOT HAPPY, VAN DER STOEL SAID, WITH COMMUNIST MINISTERS IN THE GOVERNMENT BUT IN HIS (SOARES') JUDGMENT IT IS BETTER TO HAVE THEM IN THAN OUT.

4. VAN DER STOEL NOTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS IN LONDON HAVE SUCCEEDED IN SEPARATING GUINEA-BISSAU AND CAPE VERDES QUESTIONS; THE TWO TERRITORIES WILL PURSUE SEPARATE PATHS TO INDEPENDENCE. AS REGARDS GUINEA-BISSAU, VAN DER STOEL SUPPORTS FULLY SOARES' POSITION THAT PORTUGAL MUST MOVE TO RECOGNIZE ITS INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT PRIOR

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CONSULTATIONS WITH THE POPULATION OF THE TERRITORY. ACCORDING TO VAN DER STOEL, GENERAL SPINOLA ORIGINALLY ACCEPTED THIS CONCEPT OF SOME FORM OF IMPLIED RECOGNITION. NOW, HOWEVER, HE IS OPPOSED, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM SOME OF THE OFFICERS BEHIND HIM.

5. SOARES, VAN DER STOEL SAID, FEELS SO STRONGLY ABOUT THIS ISSUE THAT IF HE IS OVERRULED HE MIGHT CONTEMPLATE

RESIGNATION. THIS IN VAN DER STOEL'S VIEW WOULD CREATE A DISASTROUS SITUATION IN PORTUGAL. THE ATTITUDE OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS, ESPECIALLY THE US, WOULD BE VERY INFLUENTIAL, VAN DER STOEL CONTINUED. BY SUPPORTING THE SOARES FORMULA, VAN DER STOEL STATED, YOU ARE IN FACT LENDING SUPPORT TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN LISBON. THE FONMIN SAID SOARES "NEEDS ALL THE HELP HE CAN GET."

6. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN REVIEWED THE POSITION USG HAD ADOPTED RE RECOGNITION OF GUINEA-BISSAU PRIOR TO THE APRIL 25 COUP AND THE RATIONALE FOR IT. HE NOTED THAT WE HAVE PROPOSED TO COORDINATE OUR POLICIES ON THIS MATTER WITH THE PRESENT GOP.
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